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3. (twice amended) The protein according to claim 1, which comprises [at least part of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 or a biologically functional equivalent thereof] the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, a biologically active variant, or an immunogenically active part of the sequence or variant.

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11. (twice amended) A vaccine for the protection of poultry against coccidiosis, which comprises [a] an effective amount of the protein according to claim 1 [together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier].

Please add the following new claims 16-25:

New claims:

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-- 16. The protein according to claim 1, wherein said LDH has a monomeric molecular weight of about 37 kD. --

-- 17. An immunogenic fragment of Eimeria lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), wherein said LDH is immunogenically reactive with antiserum raised against the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2. --

-- 18. An immunogenic fragment of the protein according to claim 1, or a biologically active variant of said fragment. --

-- 19. The vaccine of claim 11, wherein the protein is present in a pure form. --

-- 20. The vaccine of claim 11, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. --

B 4 2 -- 21. A method for the protection of poultry against coccidiosis, comprising administering to the poultry a vaccine according to claim 20. --

2 -- 22. The antibody or antiserum of claim 14, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody. --

C 7 1 -- 23. A vaccine for the protection of poultry against coccidiosis, which comprises an effective amount of the protein according to claim 3. --

-- 24. The vaccine of claim 23, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. --

A -- 25. A method for the protection of poultry against coccidiosis, comprising administering to the poultry a vaccine according to claim 24. --

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 21, 2000, claims 1-3 were rejected. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the present application in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1 and 11 were amended to conform the language of the claims to accepted U.S. patent practice and to correct a spelling error. Claims 16-25 were added to recite particular embodiments and to claim additional aspects of the invention disclosed in the specification. The above amendments were made without limiting the scope of the claims as first written and were not for reasons of patentability under 35 U.S.C.